

# 8 REMINDERS FOR PEOPLE WHO TRAIN TEACHERS

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#### REMEMBER YOUR OWN TRAINING EXPERIENCE

Remember the excitement, the nerves, the ambition, and all those fresh feelings when you first started out! Sometimes, we become disillusioned and indirectly damage the future generation of teachers by over-sharing the negativity. Remember to stay professional





#### TRAINEES ARE COLLEAGUES, NOT SUBORDINATES!

They are a member of the team. This does not mean delegating our tasks to them, but sharing our responsibilities by teaching them the effective ways of doing things as well as the purpose behind each task.

e.g. don't dump your marking on them! Give them a sample of marking from the class they co-teach with you, and teach them HOW to mark! Remember, having a trainee is not a short-term crisis support, it is a long term investment to the profession.





#### BE AUTHENTICALLY YOU

Find your mentoring style in the parameters of the guidance set by the partnered university. If the requirements are to meet formally once a week, but you don't have time for that- find a way to check in informally once a week but hold your formal meetings fortnightly. Most institutions just want to know that there is clear accountability. Negotiate what works best for you and the trainee.



### COACHING IS BETTER THAN CRITICISM

Try to nurture a culture of self-reflection. Give your trainee time to reflect on feedback.

e.g. if an activity didn't go to plan but could have effective outcomes, instead of scrapping it straight away, work with them to work out how to adapt around what they already had.







#### **BE PASSIONATE ABOUT SOMETHING**

If you don't have passion for the subject or the students, why are you doing the role of mentor? Remember, you are leaving a lasting impression. For a trainee, the relationship with their mentor can make or break their entire teaching experience.





#### DON'T BE A SAVIOUR TO YOUR TRAINEE

You are not a parent, nor their hero. Sometimes tough love is important, and this means creating healthy boundaries. For example, letting them know that texting you for resources at 9pm on a work night is not okay.





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## **BE OPEN-MINDED**

A trainee can teach you so much! They usually have a lot of enthusiasm and fresh ideas that are grounded in research (that you may not get time to do!). They're usually desperate to share, so listen attentively, negotiate, and work together to implement them. They will DEFINITELY have a better way of doing something. Let them know you like it, and adopt it for your own practice





#### GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO REFLECT

For many new mentors, this might be your first experience of 'line-managing' somebody, so ensure that you are nurturing a future colleague. Learn about and seek support on conversation and coaching techniques





# LET'S RECAP

- Remember your own training experience
- Trainees are colleagues, not subordinates
- Be authentically you
- Coaching is better than criticism
- Be passionate about something
- Don't be a saviour to your trainee
- Be open-minded
- Give yourself time to reflect

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### WHAT ARE YOUR **THOUGHTS? LET'S CONNECT!**



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